

**Developmental Disabilities Council
Adult Issues Committee
Friday, May 18, 2018
9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
DDDS Fox Run, 2nd floor training room
2540 Wrangle Hill Road, Bear, DE
Call in information: 302-526-5475, participant code 6940783#**

Members present: Terri Hancharick, Committee Chair, Parent Advocate; **Andrew Braune**, Danio Diary; **Carol Barnett**, Division of Services for Aging Adults and Physical Disabilities (DSAAPD); **HarrietAnn Litwin**, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR); **Vivian Turner**, CERTS

Members Attending Via Phone (does not count toward quorum): **Karen Gallagher**, Committee Vice-Chair, Self-Advocate;

Members Absent: **Alvin Emory**, Self-Advocate; **Laura Strmel**, St. John's Community Services (SJCS); **Bernadette DeAngelis**, Advocate; **Teesie Bonk**, Advocate

Guests Present: **Katie Howe**, Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDDS); **Blair Hains**, The Marketing Department Worldwide

Staff Present: **Kristin Harvey**, Social Services Administrator, Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)

- I. **Call to Order-** A quorum being present, Committee Chair Terri Hancharick called the meeting to order at 9:48 AM.
- II. **Approval of Minutes-** The committee voted unanimously to approve the February, 2018 minutes as written. The committee did not achieve quorum for March or April, and were unable to do business. There were no minutes for March or April since the meeting was never convened.
- III. **Approval of Agenda-** The committee voted unanimously to approve the May 18, 2018 agenda as written.
- IV. **Chair's Report-** Terri Hancharick reported on her experience at the 2018 Disability Policy Seminar, held in Washington, DC. Terri shared the following information from the seminar:

Basics of Medicaid and Social Security

- 10,000 people died last year waiting for a decision from SSA. Cuts are being hidden in bills. The Farm Bill cut SNAP.

Updates on Employment Policy

- Some bills that Senator Casey is working on:
 - Tax credits are very low for businesses hiring people with disabilities. Sen. Casey would like to double the tax credits from \$2,400 - \$5,000 in order to help states to incentivizes employment.
 - Transportation supports

- Programs to support post-secondary (RISE Act) – This provides parents and students with information on disability services in one place to know what services are available in higher education and how to access them. Also, accommodations in colleges such as requiring colleges to accept IEP plan or 504 as evidence of a disability when students are seeking accommodations for college. Training and supports for a technical assistance center for college faculty to learn more about the needs of students with disabilities. 94% of students with LD received accommodations in high school. Only 17% received accommodations in post-secondary education.
- Working on making reporting accessible to PWD when there is a sexual assault on campus.
- We know that all individuals can engage in the community and can engage in work. Real pay for direct service workers in the community, in people's homes and in day facilities.
- ABLE Accounts-Need to extend the age limit to 46 years old. Senator Casey would like to eventually extend to retirement age. There are families who cannot put away money. Casey is introducing a new bill to match money when people make below a certain level.
- There are cuts to supported employment. It is critical that we voice our support overall for supported employment that it is not just retained but increased. Streamline the VR process, holding folks accountable for what the official policy says.
- Transformation of the sheltered workshops. Must do it carefully. It's a changing workforce and families are a part of the transformation. Provider transformation manual out there.

Advancing Community Integration

- There are 600,000 people waiting for community based services. If they chose a nursing home they could be served tomorrow. Community based services are options whereas institutional settings are mandatory.
- Protect Our Care keeping the ACA from being repealed. Staff in 14 states. 66% of voters oppose cuts to Medicaid 19% are for it.
- From 2005-2016 the data shows better outcomes for people and savings for the state.
- 55% of spending now in home and community based services. 1980 100% institutional

- V. **Staff Report-** Kristin Harvey reported that she has been invited to take part in a two day mass care shelter exercise focused on testing shelter's capacity to accommodate individuals with disabilities. The event will take place at Sussex Central, and is coordinated by the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and the Department of Public Health Office of Preparedness. Kristin also asked that anyone who is interested in attending the Partners in Policymaking program to please let her know at least 72 hours in advance to ensure that the caterers can provide the correct amount of food. Kristin said that June's speakers will be Kathie Snow and Jerry Adams. In July, the Partners will welcome Al Condeluci. August will feature a special visit from one of Delaware's representatives in Congress as well as a State Senator.

Current Business:

A. State Plan Review and Revisions:

The Adult Issues Committee reviewed the DDC's 2017-2021 State Plan, focusing specifically on the objectives which have been assigned to the committee. Kristin asked that any proposed revisions be brought forward at this time. As long as the changes are not substantive and do not impact the main focus of the objective, public notice is not necessary and the committee's suggestions can be approved by the full Council at their July meeting.

The committee requested the following edits, noted in **bold**:

Pg. 4, Objective SA 3.: "Increase awareness among self-advocates participating in defined Delaware Disabilities Council (DDC) programs, such as Partners in Policymaking®, Junior Partners in Policymaking™ **and**, the LIFE Conference, **and other state and national conferences** regarding communication options available through the Center for Disabilities Studies Assistive Technology Services as well as "cutting edge" developments in assistive technology education, legal rights and public benefits. Two hundred and fifty (250) self-advocates will be reached over the course of the Five (5) Year State Plan at a rate of fifty (50) self-advocates for each Five (5) Year State Plan year."

B. Request for Proposals (RFP) Brainstorming Activity:

The Adult Issues Committee is in the process of developing a RFP to address the following objective in the 2017-2021 State Plan:

EEI 2.: "Develop and/or approve and implement one education and resource program over the course of the first year of the Five (5) Year State Plan for individuals currently receiving core services in segregated settings. The program will help to identify

individuals' interests and match those interests with employment opportunities, financial literacy training and programs that promote healthy lifestyle choices. Twenty (20) individuals currently receiving core services in segregated settings will be reached during years two (2) through five (5) of the Five (5) Year State Plan through the presentation of this curriculum."

To assist the committee with developing a RFP that reflects their intent, Kristin provided the following activity to the committee and asked for discussion and ideas. The committee's answers are indicated in **bold**.

*Request for Proposals Development Phase Exercise
Adult Issues Committee*

Objective which the RFP will address:

"Develop and/or approve and implement one education and resource program over the course of the first year of the Five (5) Year State Plan for individuals currently receiving core services in segregated settings. The program will help to identify individuals' interests and match those interests with employment opportunities, financial literacy training and programs that promote healthy lifestyle choices. Twenty (20) individuals currently receiving core services in segregated settings will be reached during years two (2) through five (5) of the Five (5) Year State Plan through the presentation of this curriculum."

Total funds available to the committee: \$67,280.75

(Funds are comprised of \$19,655.20 in 2017 funds which must be obligated by 9.30.18, and \$47,625.55 in 2018 funds which must be obligated by 9.30.19)

*Number of objectives assigned to the committee that remain to be addressed: (including the one we are developing an RFP for right now): **3***

Brief description of unaddressed objectives (to aid in making a decision RE: how much funding to put toward this RFP): 1.) Create and distribute information that self-advocates can readily use; 2.) Collaborate with CDS to secure expansion of access to at least one free or low cost wellness, exercise and/or weight loss option; 3.) objective being worked on with this RFP development exercise.

Refining key project ideas shared at the 2.16.18 Adult Issues Committee Meeting- what does this proposal ask a contractor to do?

Ideas shared (please add any I may have missed):

- Middle school after school social club focusing on interest identification and career choices. Kids with disabilities and without disabilities will participate.
- Public awareness target 1- parents. Increase parents' knowledge of the services and supports that DVR has in place to assist young adults' make the transition to meaningful employment that pays a competitive wage.
- Public awareness target 2.- service agencies. Many disability service agencies are unaware of services being provided by DVR and DDDS, so their clients are missing out.
- Develop a plan to help young adults with the most significant disabilities be successful at work, perhaps by making a college student available to act as a job coach.

Questions for the Committee:

- What type of project do you want to create for this objective, based on past discussions? **Research and development on what services or programs are presently available to identify individuals' interests and match those interests with employment opportunities, financial literacy training and programs that promote healthy lifestyle choices. Contact individuals with disabilities in segregated settings for interviews which will explore the types of services THEY would like to see in place for their benefit. Compare what exists and what the individuals with disabilities want, make recommendations.**
- What would you call this project? Title: **"Living the Life You Have Imagined: Options for An Awesome Future"**
- How much funding do you want to allot for this project? **\$20,000 for one year's worth of research and development.**
- What are some key activities that you would like a potential contractor to carry out? **Research, field work (visit adults in segregated settings, visit service provision agencies and interview key staff) report on findings, suggest opportunities to either support/supplement existing programs or develop a new program. Identify potential community partners.**
- How would you gauge "success"? Establish performance measures. **Per the objective, 20 individuals with disabilities who receive core services in segregated settings would be contacted and interviewed during year one.**
- What are some key words that you feel are important to use in the Request for Proposals? **No keywords were mentioned by the committee**

C. Committee vote- Unsolicited Proposal- "Boundless!"

The committee reviewed and voted on an unsolicited proposal received from the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC). Following evaluation of the proposal, the committee voted to approve the proposal and send it on to the next phase. The next step is to present the proposal to the Executive Committee for final approval at their meeting on June 13, 2018.

D. Discussion with Katie Howe, DDDS, RE: social stories for individuals with disabilities who are undergoing or will be undergoing medical treatment/procedures

Katie stated that in her work, she has encountered several adults with disabilities who were about to undergo medical treatment or invasive procedures. Katie found that the families/caregivers/support service staff for these individuals did not do anything to prepare the individuals for the upcoming procedures. Example: a young person was scheduled for a major surgery which would alter their appearance greatly due to a threat to their health/life. Katie was appalled when she realized that this person would awaken from surgery to find their body so drastically changed, and that no one had prepared this person for the surgery or its aftermath. Katie proposes developing social stories on an individualized basis for individuals with disabilities who are undergoing this sort of treatment, to better prepare them for the experience and allow them a means to ask questions. The committee felt that this fits in nicely with objective SA 4 in

the 2017-2021 State Plan. The committee and Katie agreed to revisit this conversation in the future.

E. DDC Project Updates:

- **Healthy Sexuality and Persons with Disabilities-**
This contract has been extended from June 1 to August 30th with the approval of the Director of the DDC. This will be a no-cost extension that will allow the contractor more time to spend all of the funding. They encountered difficulties with attendance at the Sussex County sessions, which contributed to the delay. The contract team has a plan to utilize the funds by the new contract end date.
- **Down syndrome and Alzheimer's disease Public Awareness Campaign-**
Blair Hains, the contractor for this project, was present at the meeting and provided updates. Blair distributed blank copies of the DDC-branded flash drives which will be used to provide information to the recipients of the cumulative materials. Blair said that the committee can expect to see a draft copy of the rack cards next.

New Business:

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.